

March 10, 1980

LB 666

you help to pay for that or you make up the difference that that property...on which that property will not be paying taxes. It doesn't seem quite fair either way, frankly, and I suppose we must take a bill here that was designed for something else and attach an amendment on it that was not heard certainly by this committee and if I am wrong on this, correct me, but now we are tacking on an amendment that has something to do with entirely different than LB 666 started out with. I don't think that is right either, so I oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I certainly would support Senator Schmit's amendment. Number one, from the fact that it is going to be the same tax whether on rolling stock of the railroads versus private ownership. Remember, the elevators, private ownership, do not, I am sure, want to own these cars. They could tie their capital up in something that would make them a great deal more money. They have to do this because the railroad cannot do the job or say they can't, and maybe they can't because hauling grain is more of a seasonal deal rather versus coal, for instance. But let's make it equitable when it comes to taxation. I think Senator Vickers had a very good point that he used saying that if we do not have sufficient rail cars, even with private ownership, the highways are going to suffer. There is going to be more truck travel and that certainly is true. You know the condition that our highways are becoming and much too rapidly. It means we are going to have to raise, we will I am sure this session and will raise in future sessions, the gas tax for the, not just construction, but maintaining highways. It does cost less to haul grain by rail. There is no question about it, and this lesser cost is passed down to the consumer. It isn't just to the farmer. This goes right to the consumer because eventually there is where the costs stop, is at the consumer. So I would ask you to support Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Schmit's amendment, not only because his amendment does violate our sense of process. In the end the Revenue Committee did hear this measure and it was the will of the committee that it be voted to the floor of